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Dear, Read's

Hello My name is Robert Joe. Aragonia Jr. I am 34 years old and I just spent my 20th Birthday straight of being incarcerated. I was 14 years old when I was arrested Charge with First Degree Murder with the use of a firearm with street gang, activity. I was tried as a adult, The first in the State of California at 14 years old. From The time of my arrest till I was convicted was 5 years 6 months I was offered a plea Deal of 24 years but no time serve or time credit, I thought about it, My life and if I ever Wanted to get out again so I sign the Deal, I knew by that time God had a plan for me I knew I would have to pay for my sins so now I am going on my 20th year and I'd like to share the story of my life where I come from where I live

been, where I'm going, who I was, who I am and who I want to be.

I come from a gang back round my parents are both ex-gang members, they used and sold drugs had guns drank and partyed just about every night I grew up seeing people coming in and out of my home all day and night. I would see my mother and father fighting over drugs and money. When I was 7 years old one day my dad was really high on P.C.P. he beat my mother to death luckily he snap out of it and he made me help him start doing C.P.R on her and we saved her life, that has stayed with me because 5 years before his younger brother had been high on P.C.P and killed his wife, so I've always thought about it how close my father came to taking my mother away.

I've seen my father

got shot in front of me and later on that night my mother had to take the bullet out of him because he couldn't go to the hospital he was on parole and under the influence, not too long after that he was arrested for shooting someone, so it was me, my mother and two younger brothers we were on welfare and food stamps, plus my mother still had to sell drugs, now she was single so there was more parties more guys, fights and shootings, that's all I seen. So that's what I wanted to do I wanted to be a cholo, I thought it was cool, I remember we use to play a game called gangster's when I was a kid and I wanted to go to prison because that's where my Dad was my Uncle's and Cousins. I never did good in school I could not read or write, I was always in trouble

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I started smoking weed huffing Gas and paint and Glue, I got arrested the first time when I was 9 years old for stealing I got put on probation, then I got arrested again at 11 years old for breaking in to a liquor store my friends told me to go in because I was the smallest, but when the cops came I was the only one there I got more probation, After that I was jump in to my gang, I was the youngest and they made me feel like I was special, they showed me their guns let me shoot them bought me stuff gave me money and drugs anything I wanted they gave me, Everybody loves the youngest I remember getting shot at I was with 2 of my homeboys who were in their 20's and when it happen I didn't get scared, so I got respect for that, well after later that night we go eat go buy some clothes, pick up some guns and we went to a park and we are sitting there

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and they told me we are going
to turn you in to a killer
Robert, they gave me a gun
and said when we need you
to do this for us, will you, and
I said yes, I ain't scared. One
night about a year 1/2 later we
found out a guy from a different
gang was close by, so me and
3 of my homeboys who were all
over 21 walk over there, I knock
on the door and went inside the
guy we were looking for was in the
livingroom laying down I could
see that he was kind of scared
that I was in the house so I
told him let's go outside to the street
I turn around walk out and
my homeboy is waiting for me he
hands me some gloves then a gun
and said you know what to do. Has
soon as he walks outside I start
shooting, I got arrested for murder
5 hours later, 2 of the guys with
me the older "homeboys" told on me
I've been lock up ever since May 10th

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1995. I think about it now all these years later how I took someone's life his name was Matthew and he was only 18 years old, he didn't deserve that, I hurt his family, I killed someone for nothing, I ruined so many lives, it feels like I've lived 2 different lives, I can't even believe that was me, what was I thinking, why did I do that. And to add to it little did I know that at times my girlfriend who is now my beautiful wife was pregnant but because of the stress and depression I caused to her she had a miscarriage so not only did I take a young man's life not only did I kill one person I am responsible for the death of my own child.

I ruin the lives of my victim's family, I ruin my family, my girlfriend and her family. I caused so much pain and hurt and loss to so many

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people. you dont realize who's
affected by what you do till it's
to late. everything you do affects
not just you but everyone who
loves you everyone that loves
the people you hurt. It took
me a long time to realize that
you are not just living for your
self theres hundreds of lives
that can be change forever for
your mistakes, they will all
suffer, you dont think about your
Mother Father Brothers Sisters
Spouse's, children, or all your
Victims Family his Mother his
Father his Sisters, Brothers, its
so many people. I've spent a lot
of years away from the people
who love me and I know
how much I hurt them, I cant
even imagine what my Victims
Family has been through. And
Now I look back almost 20 years
later and I see how stupid
it all was The gangs The
Drugs. What a mess I made

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What a waste of life. I wish I would of listen in school, listen to the people who did try to help me. I know its not too late but was taking someones life and 20 years of my own worth it. the answer is No not even a little I regret it I'm sorry. I'm sorry to every person I hurt and cause pain to. I can never bring Matthew back I can't change what I did But I can learn from it and maybe help someones avoid the same mistakes I made.

everyday now I know is a gift and I try to better my self I know no one else will do it for me I've learn so many things How to read How to write I finish school and enrolled my self in college I play the guitar and I've just open

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my mind to the world, it isn't about guns, gangs and drugs no more it's about my wife starting a family teaching kids even in here showing young guys that there's more to life than 4 walls and hurting people. I can honestly say now that I have learn from my mistakes, I have learn that life is what you make of it, so be careful be smart about the choices you make in life be mindful of your actions before its to late and you end up hurting every person that loves you and hurting other people and hurting your self.

So has I close whoever should read my story young or old Boy, or girl Man or Woman. Think about how everything you do can change so many lives for the better or the worse, its always your choice you can say no to the guns, drugs

gangs. Everyone of us knows
 right from wrong and you
 don't want to have to learn
 the hard way like me, I made
 the wrong choice and I will
 pay for it Not just with the
 20 years I've spent incarcerated
 But for the rest of my life
 I will live knowing that
 I killed someone for no reason.
 That was my wrong choice
 What will be yours? or will you
 make the right one it's all up to
 you and only you. Sincerely,

Robert Joe Segiovia Jr

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